

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic analyzer comprising:
  - an analytical module for analyzing a living body sample;
  - a conveyer unit for conveying sample racks to said analytical module and conveying sample racks, for which sampling has completed, from said analytical module;
  - a sample buffer capable of holding a plurality of sample containers containing samples, supplying desired ones of the sample containers held on said sample buffer to said conveyer unit, and receiving the sample containers returned from said analytical module through said conveyer unit;
  - a sample supply unit for supplying samples to said sample buffer; and
  - a sample collection unit for collecting samples from said sample buffer.
2. An automatic analyzer comprising:
  - an analytical module for analyzing a living body sample;
  - a conveyer unit for conveying sample racks to said analytical module and conveying sample racks, for which sampling has completed, from said analytical module;
  - at least two sample buffers each capable of holding a plurality of sample containers containing samples, supplying desired ones of the sample containers held on said sample buffer to said conveyer unit, and receiving the sample

containers from said analytical module;

a sample supply unit for supplying samples to said sample buffer; and

a sample collection unit for collecting samples from said sample buffer.

3. An automatic analyzer according to Claim 2, wherein said two sample buffers are disposed at both ends of said conveyer unit.

4. An automatic analyzer according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said conveyer unit has one conveyer line and the one conveyer line includes a mechanism for moving the one conveyer line back and forth.

5. An automatic analyzer according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said conveyer unit has two or more conveyer lines and each of the conveyer lines includes a mechanism for moving the conveyer line back and forth.

6. An automatic analyzer according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said conveyer unit has two or more conveyer lines, at least one of the conveyer lines is dedicated to moving forth, and the other one or more conveyer lines is dedicated to moving back.

7. An automatic analyzer according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein said sample buffer has a structure

holding a plurality of sample racks substantially spokewise arranged on a base rotatable about an axis.

8. An automatic analyzer according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein said sample buffer has a structure holding a plurality of sample racks arranged on a base to lie side by side substantially in one direction, the structure including a mechanism for moving said base in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction in which said sample racks are arranged.